

Appl. No. 10/086,749
Amendment dated December 23, 2003
Response to Office Action of October 15, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Under the final Office Action mailed on October 15, 2003, claims 2-11, 13-20, 22, 25, 26, 28, 29, and 31-36 were subject to examination. Claims 2-10, 32, and 33 were rejected for a variety of reasons set forth in detail in the Office Action; claims 13-16, 22, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, and 34-36 were allowed; claim 11 was indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base and any intervening claims; claims 17-20 were objected to, presumably because they were dependent from cancelled claim 12.

A response to the Office Action was facsimile transmitted to the Office on December 22, 2003. However, in listing the claims in that response, claims 9 and 10 were inadvertently not listed. By way of this supplemental amendment, claims 9 and 10 have been amended to now depend from allowable claim 33 so should also be in condition for immediate allowance.

All other amendments remain as set forth in the Amendment of December 22, 2003. More particularly, claims 8, 11 and claim 32 have been canceled; claims 9, 10, 17, and 33 have been amended.

Claim 17 was amended to be dependent from allowed claim 16, and it is respectfully submitted that this claim, and those dependent from it, are now in condition for allowance since they add further limitations to an already allowed claim and therefore inherit its allowability.

Claim 33 was amended to include the limitations of cancelled claims 8 and 11. Because claim 33 is a combination of claims that were previously indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is respectfully submitted that this claim, and those dependent from it, are in condition for immediate allowance.

The applicant reserves the right to claim the matter of the cancelled claims through continuing applications.

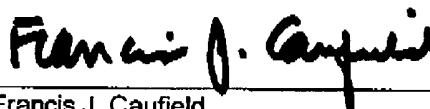
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In view of the above action, which introduces no new issues or requires any new examination, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in immediate condition for allowance and requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

December 23, 2003

Date



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